A town where you live

#253 The Knack! Kouji Seo

The Story So Far
Haruto has been employed by a beverage manufacturer and placed in Kochi Prefecture, of all places! He's now in a long distance relationship with his girlfriend Yuzuki, who is teaching in Tokyo...!
SUNGREE
Hey, Kirishima-kuuuun! Are you free tomorrow evening?
Uh... Tomorrow?
Yeah. I'm going out drinking with some friends. Do you want to come?
Sorry.
My girlfriend's coming from Tokyo tomorrow, so I can't.
Wh... again?
Doesn't she come like every week?
Well... I told her she didn't have to bend over backwards, but...

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...Is what she said.
Man. It sounds nice being a public employee.
It's just that I have the weekends off, and you don't, that's all.
I'm not really bending over backwards or anything like that...

Aha... Carries more weight from a veteran.
Huh?
Yeah, but if you start out like this, you're just never gonna be able to keep it up through the whole relationship.

I mean, if work ain't goin' well, then there's no way your relationship can go well, don'tcha think?
We'll we're fine.
It's plenty enough for him and me to meet every once in a great while.
Who're you callin' a veteran?!
What else do you call someone who's been in a long-distance relationship for four years, hm?
Clatter

HUH ?!
So could tomorrow be around when you're having one of those every so often visits?

You didn't happen to see him, did you? My boy-friend, I mean...
...But, I mean.

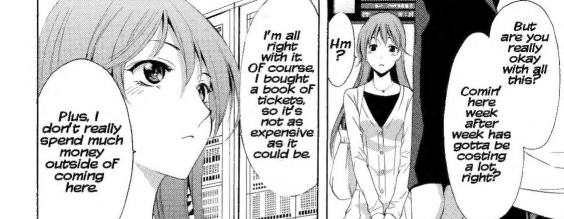
H.. H... How did you know ?!
'Cause you been lookin' at your cell phone all morning and smilin' like crazy, it's creepin' me out.
Hey, I got seniority, you can't go callin' me creepy !!

No, I haven't see him at all... Why, is he good lookin' or somethin'?
Huh? Well, hmmmm... He ain't really what you'd call handsome. I guess he's jus' normal, jus' a regular-lookin' guy.

...You wanna actually see him?
Nah... Not really.
...Yup.
I see...
H... Huh?!
What're you tryin' to say, huh?!
What, d'you wanna show me, is that it?
What're you sayin'!! You gotta be at least a little bit interested!
I told ya, I don't care at all.
'Ay, wait a sec! I bet you really wanna see don'cha?!
All right then. Please show me your boy-friend, ma'am.
Wh...
....
Sure, he's normal, but he's the kind of normal that's real close to handsome!
Well you said he was just normal, right?

Man, she's such a pain in the ass!!
Well, if you say it like that, I kind of don't want to show you.
Fine. I don't care!
Ahhhh! Wait, wait, I'll show you, all right?!
Haruto-kun!!

Ah!!
GACHK
Ma'am, could you please go around...
...
I'm sorry!!
How many times are you gonna let that Quo card game close on you...?
Well, I just!
I just want to see you as fast as I can!
...Oh.
...I see.


I'm all right with it. Of course. I bought a book of tickets, so it's not as expensive as it could be.
Plus, I don't really spend much money outside of coming here.
Hm?
But are you really okay with all this?
Comin' here week after week has gotta be costing a lot, right?

I really think I should go to Tokyo to see you, too, but... I really have to go in to work a lot on my off days.
...You don't?

It's fine, don't worry! Anyway, let's go buy some groceries for dinner and get back to your place, okay?
We're wasting time here.
Yeah...
You're right!
Don't worry about it. The first year is the hardest, right?
I'll do my part and come visit you until things calm down.
I... still feel kinda bad, though.

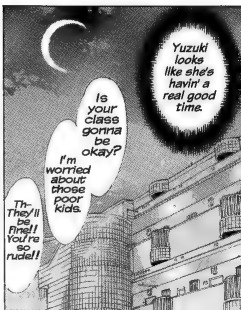
SPLSH
So, Haruto-kun, how is work going?
Are they still getting mad at you?
Haha, not as much as before... but they still do, time to time.
But they were a little bit impressed with the materials I put together last time.
They said it was really easy to read.
Ah...
Well that's good, then!

They're going to let me be in charge of a whole team of newbies to try it out!
Oh, and they said next time they'll let me have my own project, as a test.
Even if I screw up, my superiors said they'd cover my ass for me.
W...Well, it's just a little project, I mean.
What? That's amazing, isn't it?!
....
But I've gotten a little more used to it and bit by bit it's kinda gettin' to be fun.
I'm so glad...
I think once you start gettin' it, any job can be fun.
Hm?

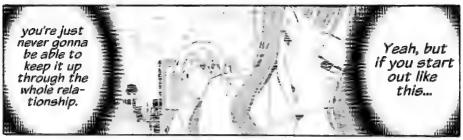
But you really look to be having a good time... it's a relief.
Since you came here all alone to this place you'd never I thought you might be putting on a brave face, and pretending you were okay for me.
-Yu-zu-ki.
Actually, my students are all so cute, and they talk to me in a very friendly way.
And how are you doing?
Are you struggling with anything at school?
Hm?
Oh, no, not at all.
I'm always thinking I'm so glad that I decided to become a teacher.

And plus, IF I work hard, I may even get a chance to lead my own homeroom by next year.
I'm really looking forward to it!

...I'm glad.


Yuzuki looks like she's havin' a real good time.
Is your class gonna be okay?
I'm worried about those poor kids.
Th-They'll be fine!! You're so rude!!

NNNN
ZZZZ

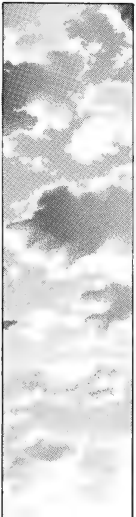

you're just never gonna be able to keep it up through the whole relationship.
Yeah, but if you start out like this...

We need to just keep goin'...
...bit by bit, without overdoing it...

...Yeah.
...She's probably right...

I mean, the veteran said that if work goes smoothly, the relationship will too...
If that's true, Yuzuki and I are gonna be fine...

Well, see you later, Haruto-kun.
Uh-huh



I see. Well, thanks again...
...For comin' all the way out here.

Hey, you sure you're okay with me not comin' to the station with you?
...Yeah. I'd actually just get more upset that way.

I'm coming next week, too, okay...
...!
HUG
So don't you dare cheat on me.
Hey, you, too... Don't let any cool guy teachers sweet talk you into goin' out with them, huh?
....
It'll be Fine! There aren't any guys cooler than you, out there!!
H...Hey, cut it out. don't be yellin' stuff like that out here...

...Yeah.

Well then...

TMP
TMP

...O-kay.
All right, I just gotta tough it out for another week.

I wanna go see Yuzuki right now!!
I wanna see her already!
ROLL
コロ
ゴロ
ROLL
Aaa!
So damn long!
208
Kirishima
桐島
Ding donning
ピンポーン
Hm?
LEAP
ガバ
W-Did Yuzuki leave something behind?!
I'm coming in!!!
ガチャ
KACHA
Huh what?
What are y-

HUG
DO ME !!
_P!
Hey, come on, senpai.
What is the matter with you!?
Please_
It'd be a favor to me_!
HARUTO... ARE YOU REALLY GONNA DO HER THAT FAVOR ?!
_Ah!
Oh, no!
I left my ring back at Haruto's place_
_TO BE CONTINUED!!

IF SHE SAW HIM RIGHT NOW, THERE'S NO WAY HE'D BE ABLE TO MAKE AN EXCUSE...

A town where you live

#254 Time to Make a Decision

Kouji Seo

TAP
TAP
Hey, what are you doing?! Cut it out!!
C'mon, you strip too.
Why do I gotta do that?!
I don't get this at all!!
Fine, you don't have to get it!! This is an order!!

The Story So Far

Haruto has been employed by a beverage manufacturer and placed in Kochi Prefecture! His girlfriend Yuzuki, who lives in Tokyo, comes to visit him every week! Just after Yuzuki is returning home, for some reason, Haruto's supervisor Misaki shows up at his door.?!

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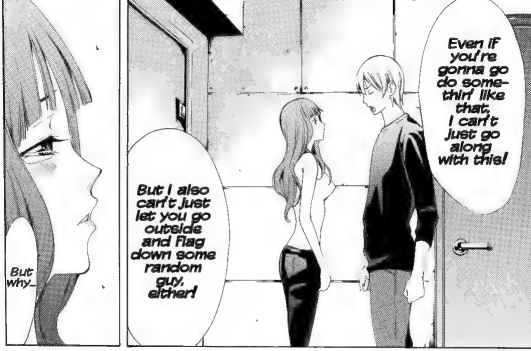
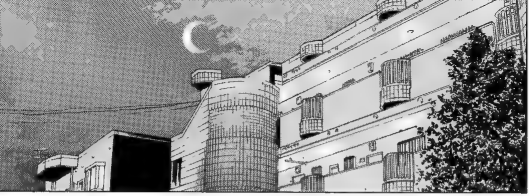
....
Please explain yourself!
I refuse to follow an order like that without knowin' the reason behind it!
_broke up.
My boyfriend and I
_Huh.
Aw, jeez_
....
go outside and call some random guy passin' by on the street to have sex with me okay_?
If you don't just do it with me already, Kirishima-kun_ Then I'll just_


But why...
But I also can't just let you go outside and flag down some random guy, either!
Even if you're gonna go do some-thin' like that, I can't just go along with this!

Please.
I'll listen to what you have to say, so please just put your clothes back on.

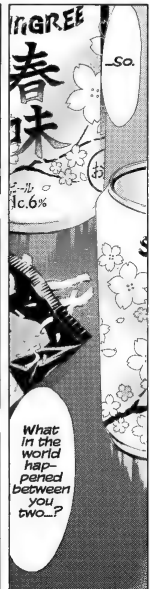
IF I see Haruto now, I won't want to go home anymore!
I'll get it next week when I come back.
Oh well.
Ah
...
...O-kay.



It ain't nothin' like that at all!!
CLANK
Did you ignore him too much and get cheated on?

He's the kinda guy who'd never ever cheat on me. I really believe that!!
Even when we're apart we're still real lovey-dovey an' all...

....
...Well, then.
Why'd you have to break up with him?


...So.
What in the world happened between you two...?

He asked me to quit my job and go back to Osaka.
He pro-posed to me.
-Wh-
I just really love this job, ya know...
I can't even think of stoppin' right now.
I'm havin' a lotta fun at work nowadays... It's real rewarding, y'know...
-But.
SUNGR
春味
11c.6%
He's sayin' that's his ideal.
And jus' normally have kids with him.
Well, he jus' I guess he wants me to become a normal house-wife.

...he said. "Well, I guess we gotta break up then."
And when I told him that...
SUGAR
Wh... Why? Isn't that a little too extreme?!
You guys have been workin' on this relation-ship for 4 years!
...Hm?
It was just... four years of me chainin' him down...
I'm going to be 27 this year, y'know?
IF I keep on workin' like this, and keep gettin' older, havin' a kid will just get harder and harder.
The longer we keep datin', the further he gets from what he really wants...

...So if I was really thinkin' of him,
plip
plip
...I woulda cut it off a while ago.
But... I just couldn't say anything...!
'Cause I love him so much...!!
....
Sorry...
I keep talkin' like this, even though you're in a long-distance relationship too...
Nah.
It's okay... I mean, we're okay...

...
She...
...went home without this, I guess...

Is this really okay with you?!
-Hm?
What?
Well, I mean... You've been going to Kochi for two months, right...
Why can't Haruto-san come here once in a while?!

But...
...I feel like it's really tough for you to be the only one travelling every weekend... and besides...
He can't. He can be called in to work at any time, you know.
I don't want to put any more pressure on him.
I told you, I'm fine! I have the weekends off, so it's all good.
KACHIK
Anyway, be sure to lock the doors, all right? I'll be back on Monday.
....
Ah!
Yu-zu-ki...
CLICK

枝葉柚希 Yuzuki Eba
I'm sorry!! It looks like I'll be a little late (>_<)

I wonder what's up...
Did something happen?

....
...four years of me chainin' him down...
It was just...
One year... Five years...? Even more?
I wonder how many more years me and her can keep this thing up...
...I woulda cut it off a while ago.
SWAP
...So if I was really thinkin' of him,
There ain't no way I could do somethin' like that...
....

Haruto-kuuun!!
Yuzu-
Sorry about that!!
Oh come on!!
CLUNK
....
Eh, maybe we don't have to worry about all that just yet...

I mean... con-sidering...
...how much I love this girl...

'Cause I love him so much...!!
But... I just couldn't say any-thing...!

....

Hm?
Did some-thin' come up...?
Actually, you were late all of a sudden, is every-thing okay?

Ah... Nah... It's nothin' at all!!
What's the matter? You're spacing out.

Oh, no.
I was just talking with Rin when I was leaving, so I got out of the house a little bit late, that's all.
Oh, is that so? I was worried you might be pushin' yourself too hard to get here.

Thank you.
I'm Fine.

....
Hm?
Come to think, you look a little pale, don't ya?
Hm. I do?
Yeah, you're paler than usual.
You seem kinda low, too..

Huh?

...Actually, I didn't eat anything before I left.
so I'm probably just a bit hungry...

Hee hee hee.
Sorry.
Well... You shoulda said something. You got me all worried.

It's almost summer, so maybe a goya stir fry or something?
All right! Then how 'bout today I make you something you like to eat, huh?

FWUMP
Or maybe it'd be better if I went a little more all-out, and made something special...

Hm?

"I'M FINE." CLEARLY HER WORDS WERE JUST LIP SERVICE.
Yu-zuki!!
Hey!! What's the matter, Yuzuki?!
...!!
...TO BE CONTINUED!!

"I'M FINE." CLEARLY HER WORDS WERE JUST LIP SERVICE.
....!!
Yu-zuki!!
ぎゅっ
Hey!! What's the matter, Yuzuki?!
ぎゅっ
...TO BE CONTINUED!!

A town where you live
高知総合病
HOW IS YUZUKI, WHO SUDDENLY FAINTED...?
The story so far
Haruto has been employed by a beverage manufacturer and placed in Kochi Prefecture! His girlfriend Yuzuki is a teacher in Tokyo, and the two of them are now in a long-distance relationship. Every weekend, Yuzuki comes out to Kochi to visit him! However, just as she's arriving for her usual visit, Yuzuki suddenly passes out in the train station!
....

A town where you live

#255 What Should I Do?

Kouji Seo

...Yuzuki doesn't have much money to go to Kochi, so she uses an overnight bus to get there.
She told me not to tell you about this, but...

Of course she hasn't!
Oh... She hasn't said a word about...
...and she says she just kills time at an internet cafe until she can meet you in the afternoon.
There's work that she has to get done over the weekend, so she does it on the bus...

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

SHE WANTED TO COME SEE YOU, NO MATTER WHAT!
IF SHE TOLD YOU, YOU'D JUST TELL HER NOT TO COME, WOULDN'T YOU?

...I will never forgive you, Haruto-san!
But if you keep letting her overdo it, and something happens to her...

....
Yu-zu-ki_
drip

I'm sorry...
You shouldn't be the only one trying so hard...

BZZZZZZ
BZZZZZ

...Sorry, I'm really busy today...
Nah... Yeah... Well, I know, but...
Can you all just go ahead without me for now?

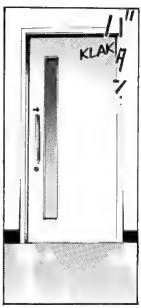
WORK

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE THE CHIEF OF THIS PROJECT, AREN'T YOU?
ARE YOU TRYING TO PASS THE BUCK TO US?
That's not what I'm tryin' to do!
Somethin' just came up today and I really can't go...!
PLEASE, COME ON...
THE PROJECT MEETING'S NEXT WEEK, Y'KNOW!
AH. O-KAY.
WE CAN'T GO FORWARD WITHOUT YOU HERE.
Mn.

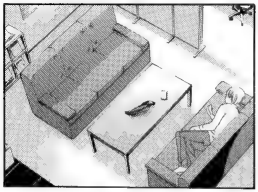
Ah... Are you awake now?
You fainted at the train station, miss.
...Wh?
The doctor said it was fatigue.
Please don't stress yourself too much.
...Fatigue.
.....
JUMP
Ah...! Where's Haruto-kun...?
Hey, you still need to rest a little bit more!
IF you don't get a lot of sleep tonight, you'll just faint again.
But...
IF you're talking about the person who brought you here, he said he had work.
He was called in sometime during the evening...
...Wh?

Come to think of it, he looked quite tired as well... Is he all right?
The both of you seem to be very busy with work...
....

He said that he would be back to pick you up tomorrow morning.
You should rest yourself well until then.


KLAK

桐島青大
Haruto Kirishima
1
Sorry. I had to go to work to get some stuff done, so just relax for today. I'll come for you in the morning. I'm sorry, for real.
Ha-ru-to-kun...
I'm sorry...
高知総合病



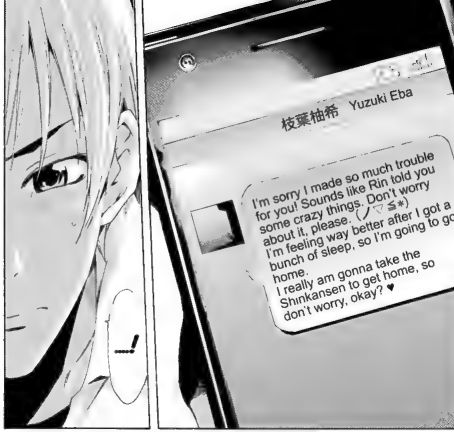
SUNCREE

Nnh..
So brigh..

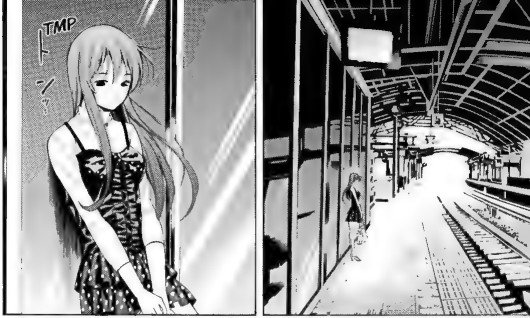
Flash
Flash

FMP
Ah-!!
Damn, I Fell asleep !!

Hm?


枝葉柚希 Yuzuki Eba
I'm sorry I made so much trouble for you! Sounds like Rin told you some crazy things. Don't worry about it, please. (ノ^^)ノ*)
I'm feeling way better after I got a punch of sleep, so I'm going to go home.
I really am gonna take the Shinkansen to get home, so don't worry, okay? ♥
...!

What's she...


TMP

Yu-
zu-
ki
!!

Ha…
Haru-
to-
kun…
Why
are
you…
You're
just goin'
on home
without
letting me
see you
at all!?

Yu-
zu-
ki
!!

I'm already totally all right, see?
B... But I'm fine!
Are you an idiot...? Like I'd be able to sleep at home with you all exhausted like you were...
I thought you'd be tired from work.
But...

IF I don't, I won't be able to calm down!!
I'm gonna take you all the way back to Tokyo this time!
No!

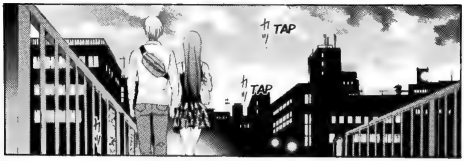
.....

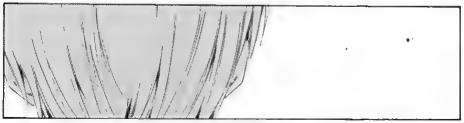
When you get home, don't get too mad at Rin-chan, okay?
She was just worried about you, that's why she told me.
Yeah...
I know.

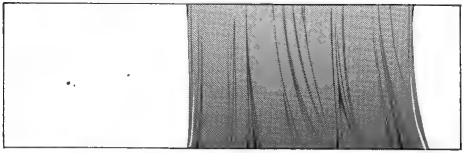
...Actually, I think this is far enough, you know?
My place is really close by here.

...O-kay.

I'm tellin' you it's fine.
I came all this way already. I'm gonna take you all the way home.
....
All right...
Ah... That's right... The ticket...
I'll pay you back for it when we get home.
Huh?
Don't even worry about it.
But...
I should be able to treat you sometimes, shouldn't I?
....
O-kay...
IF you don't let me, I'll feel less like a man!


TAP
TAP





Hey.
Hm?
Grip

What...
...What should I do...?
....
....

But...
Don't worry! Because next time I'm coming to see you.
...It'll be fine.
Don't worry...
IF IT'S HARD FOR YOU ALONE, THEN TRY IT WITH ME. I'LL NEVER LET GO OF YOUR HAND !!
....
O-kay.
squeeze
...TO BE CONTINUED!!

11

A town where you live

THE TIME TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH YUZUKI IS COMING FAST.

Fwooosh

The story so far: Haruto's working in Kochi, and his girlfriend Yuzuki is working in Tokyo as a teacher, so the two of them are in a long-distance relationship. Yuzuki wanted to see Haruto so much that she was coming to Kochi every weekend, but then she passed out from fatigue!

Well, thinking about it realistically, you've got to see each other less, don't you?

I mean, both of you are low on time and money.

....

In the end, that'll just be like putting it off...

...I mean, there's no guarantee that I'll be able to go back to Tokyo...

It was just...

...four years of me chainin' him down...

A town where you live

#256 Answer Kouji Seo

東京
とうきょう
Tokyo

Yo!
Here I am.

Haru-to-kun!!
Hehe_ Wel-come!
Okay, let's just go on back to my place!
Um_ Is it all right, for real?
Rin-chan and all.
Yeah! She's spending the week-end with our par-ents' in Nagoya.
So you don't have to worry about it. Just relax and take it easy.

...

Ah, no-thin'-
Whaat?

She must be tired...
You wor-ka.
Now that I think about it, there's no way a first-year teacher would be free every weekend...

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.

It's real hot, too...
Yeah, it's summer, after all.
...Ah.
Are you feelin' all right?
Yep, I'm fine!
Rin even said that I look better than I did before I fainted.
Haha, well that's all right then, huh.
...Oh. I almost forgot in all the rush...
You forgot your ring at my-
BZZZZZ
BZZZZZ

Hello..
Uh... Um..

Misaki Adachi
..Ah.

THE PROJECT MEETIN'S DAY AFTER TOMORROW, Y'KNOW! GET TO THE OFFICE, PRONTO!!
THE HELL'RE YOU DOING, TRYIN' TO IGNORE YOUR WORK LIKE THIS ?!

..!!
O... OH YOU CAN'T ?
UM... THEN, COULD YOU MAYBE... FIX IT FOR ME, ADACHI-SAN....?
I'm lookin' at it now, and this project proposal ain't even close to done!
I can't turn this thing in!!
.....
Um... Well... I'm kind of in Tokyo at the moment...
HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I left this plan to you !!
This is work, don't slack off!!
Get back here this instant and fix this, you freakin' idiot!

You should probably go back...
...Wh-

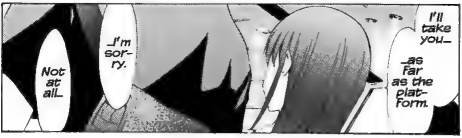
A... A-dachi-sa-
Um...!!

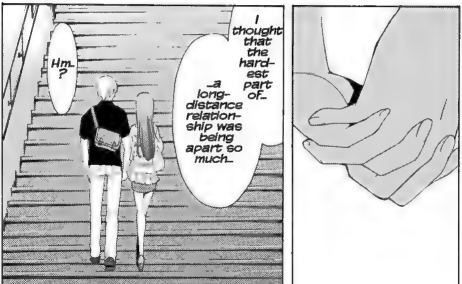
It's important work, isn't it?
I'll walk you to the station...

....

東海道・山陽新幹線のりば(南のりかえ口)
Tokaido Sanyo Shinkansen Tickets
...Okay.

東海


I'll take you...
...as far as the platform.
I'm sorry.
Not at all...


I thought that the hardest part of...
...a long-distance relationship was being apart so much...
Hm...?

But I feel like it's even harder to be with you and see your face...
...than it is not to be able to see you at all...
....
I feel the same way...
I don't want to hurt Yuzuki...
...any more than I already have...
TAP
TAP
So what should I do...

...please stay with me for-ever...
Don't go home to Tokyo, okay...
TAP
TAP
I'm sorry to have to say this to you, but I'm takin' her back!!
I came all the way from Hiroshima to be with Yuzuki Eba!
TAP
TAP
...don't leave me...!
....Don't...

...no matter what happens, the two of us will be together forever.
Then let's make a promise...
TAP
TAP
Every time I see her smile, I realize..
TAP
TAP
...I love this girl, for real...
How much...

Then I guess I already...
...got my answer, don't I?
GRIP
17
14:58 Hakata
15:58 Hakata
PLEASE BOARD NOW.
THE 2:58 P.M. NOZOMI 19 BOUND FOR HAKATA WILL BE DEPARTING SHORTLY.

....
...Uh huh.
So...
Take care of yourself.
What is it...?
Um...
....
Hey, so...
H...
Hm?
Bzzt
PLEASE STAND CLEAR OF THE CLOSING DOORS.

Let's...
...break up.

...Yes.
...I guess we should.

Work...
Work hard, okay?
Yeah.
You, too, Haru-ko-kun...
I...
PFSH
"

-Ah.

Clickety
カ"タ ン

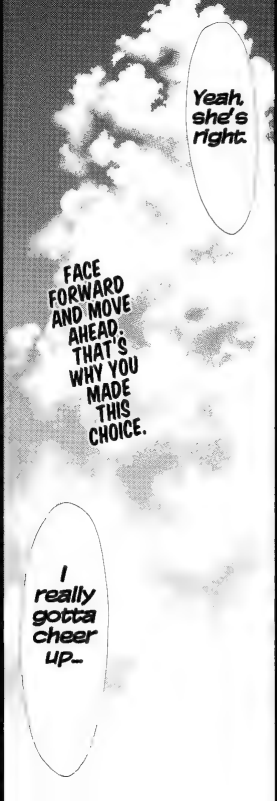
カ"タ Clack
ン

カ"タ Clickety
ン

I'm glad...
...that I became a teacher, after all.
Ting
Ting
The answer you came up with after giving it so much thought has got to be the best solution...
Ngh.
Uu...
Shooo~
-TO BE CONTINUED!!

Haruto's working in Kochi, and his girlfriend Yuzuki is working in Tokyo as a teacher. While the two of them were in a long-distance relationship Yuzuki made a habit of visiting Haruto over weekends. However after Yuzuki collapsed from exhaustion Haruto broached the topic of breaking up out of concern for Yuzuki's health.
A town where you live
Yuzuki...
Clickety
Click
Kshhh
Come on Fuuka, be careful, don't run in the train!
Mama, can we buy some juice?
Clickety
Click
HE CAME TO THE DECISION AFTER A PERIOD OF SERIOUS THOUGHT AND...
KATHUMP
Wah !!
Wh...
Here !

...Oh.
Thank you.
You dropped this!
....
Cheer up, Mister!
You're a boy, so you shouldn't cry, okay?
....
Hey !!
I don't care, I'm not afraid of papa!
Don't wander around, I'll tell your dad!
It's fine...
C... Come on, Fuuka!
Sorry about that...



A town where you live

Kouji Seo

#257 Work

SUNCREE
Sorry I'm late.
You're real late!! What the heck were you even doin'?!
TOK
TOK
If you keep takin' this job for granted, you might end up not-
Creak
Wh-
I'm sorry about that-

Huhhh...
H... Hey, now. If you think you're gonna get away with this by cryin' a few tears, you're thinkin' wrong, ya know?
That... doesn't fly in the real world...
I know that...
I'm real sorry. I'll get right to work.
....
I creak
Hey... You don't gotta cry about it.
Was I really that hard on ya...?
Nah.
I'm fine. I already switched my frame of mind.
This work is real important to me, after all.
...You want me to make some tea...?
We got some candy, too... It's mint.
I'm just fine, really.
Oh- OK...

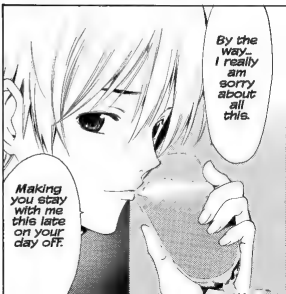
This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.

Takka
Takka
Takka
Takka
Takka
....
Sigh
creak
Um...

C'mon, I'll treat you!!
Let's go get a drink, huh?!
No...
I'm done.
JUMP!!
Wh... what is it?! You want tea, now?!
Ah... You are?
Good job!!
Nice! You can do it when you set your mind to it, huh?
Um...
Could you look it over for me, first?
Oh... right... Yeah, I'll do it!
I'll check it or whatever you want!!
Kay...
Thanks a lot...
SUNGREE

This is a nice place, right?
I come here on my own sometimes.
Yeah...
It's a real nice quiet place...

Well, it's...
...all right, but...


By the way... I really am sorry about all this.
Making you stay with me this late on your day off.

Hey...
Did something happen? In Tokyo?

Well... How do I put it... Me and you are in the same boat, Adachi-san.
...Huh?

I broke it off with my girlfriend...
!!
W-Why?!
You were getting along so well, weren't you?!
We were, but...
Was it because of something I said...?

Auuugh!!
Well, to be honest, it sort of got me thinkin'...

But...
Sorry... It's not like you did anything wrong, you know.

I'm... I'm sorry!! I didn't come out sayin' it with that in mind, ya know!!
Ahh... I'm so sorry!!
N... No...

I mean... if we kept up this long-distance thing...
There's no guarantee I'd ever be able to go back to Tokyo, where she is...

I mean, neither of us have the time or money to see each other every week...

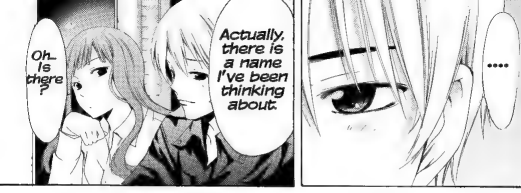
When we see each other...
...
...she just sees me looking tired and gets worried...

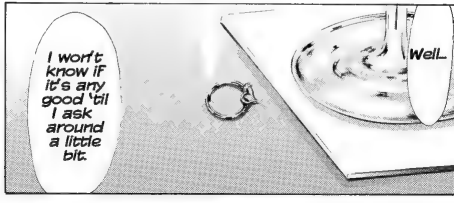
And then I just had this painful realization...
...that I'm a powerless, pathetic man who can't even...
...make the one woman I love in the world happy.

....
Didn't you think about askin' her to marry you?
Then you could be together.
I did think about it...
I was thinkin' about askin' her right up until I broke it off.
Then why...?
But she finally got to be a teacher like she wanted.
When I remembered how happy she looked when she told me...
Next year she might be able to become a homeroom teacher, get her own class...
...I knew I couldn't ask her something so selfish just for my own convenience...

I don't think anybody could tell ya if that was the right choice to make or not, at this point, but...
Well... It's all right, ain't it?
....
From my point of view, it's more than welcome, ya know?
Clatter
カラ
I mean, as long as you're ready to really put your all into work from now on.
....
Okay.
Work yourself to the bone from here on out!!
Ow !!
BAM
If you're feelin' so powerless that you wanna cry, just put more power into your work!!

I think given you want all the way and got your own sales strategy down, this one might make it.
"Local beer" is a pretty played out idea; you see it all the time, but...
I don't know if it's the right time to say this, but...
I think that plan is real good, ya know? The one we just finished.
I Figured since I came all the way to Kochi, I should be makin' somethin' that uses the famous products of the area.
Thank you very much.
Hm...
It really needs the kinda name that just makes ya want to buy it soon as you see it.
But the name's a real issue still.
Y... You really think so?
...it wouldn't take much to be a real popular drink company in no time flat.
Well... If thinkin' somethin' like that up was easy...


Oh. Is there?
Actually, there is a name I've been thinking about.
....


I won't know if it's any good 'til I ask around a little bit.
Well...

Ayy, Kirishima!
Yes?
Kirishima!
SUNGREE

You... you did.
...it was pretty good, so I submitted it to headquarters for product development.
The new beer plan that you came up with a little while ago...
Good for you, eh!
You did it!
Wh... What did I do?
Fwip
Fwip

I bet they'll go for it!!
Looks like they're open to further consideration!
Wh...

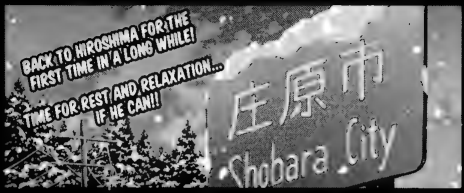
For real?
Whaaat, oh my gosh!! I totally got lucky on this one!!
...make some final touches and resubmit the plan with Adachi as the head!
Looks like they're gonna go with a limited, Kochi-only release for now, so...

Ah... Yeah, you did!! No way, I'm letting that happen. I gotta lead this one!!
CLATTER
But sorry, looks like I stole your project!!
I'm so glad I took you on as my apprentice!!
How 'bout I let ya go ahead and do some-thin' naughty with me just once.
Oh, well if you're gonna pa like that...
I'm not gonna fall for that one!!
What're you sayin'? Ain't no way they'll let a newbie like you run a project like this!!
I mean, I been lookin' after you, haven't I?!
The boss gets the credit for the under-ling's work, after all!
No way!!
And I guess I'm really starting to see your true motives now!!
...If you're sure
I'm not gonna make this offer again, hm?
Wh...

-Wh
?
....

Why are you takin' me ser-iously ?!
H-

New Product Proposal
No-
I was not !!
Liar !!
You were lookin' at me just like that guy who runs Yamakura super-market!
X Office X Division Haruto Kirishima
uct Name "Yuzu Flowers"
I was not !!
-TO BE CONTINUED!!
A VERY PRECIOUS FLOWER HAS NOW BLOOMED...



A town where you live

#257 Go!! Kouji Seo

I basically had to force my way outta that place to get here.
I woulda had to work all the way through New Year's if I weren't lucky.

The story so far

Naruto, now working at a branch office in Kochi, had been in a long-distance relationship with Yuzuki, a teacher in Tokyo, but he decided to break it off when he realized the burden was too heavy, and because he respected her dreams. He threw himself into his work and ended up making a very successful new beer.

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.

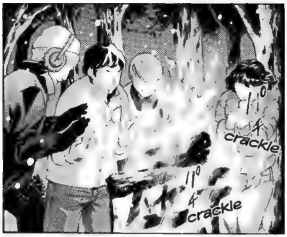
That's the kinda stuff I don't wanna hear!
He said, "Your kid's a real big-shot nowadays, isn't he."
It's real good! Akari-chan's dad was surprised, too!

Whatever, liar.
That was just a coincidence, though!
I mean, makin' a beer with a girly name like "Yuzu Flowers" n'all.
Well, I guess you're right to be embarrassed, after all.

Yeah, that's right.
....

I'll talk to them, then.
The two of them are gonna be at the first shrine visit of the year, right?

It's been a long time, right?
Akari-chan and Takashi-kun said they want to see you.
Oh by the way, Haruto,


crackle
crackle

I hope you have a good year.
Happy New Year!

SHFF
SHFF

It's been so long since I came home. ain't used to these cold country winters no more.
Ugh.
So cold.

tmp
tmp
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tmp
tmp

You sure got home late.
Over here, man!

Ayyy, Haryto!

Best wishes for the year ahead.
Happy New Year.
Oh, right.
Happy New Year.

SHFF
Yeah, but I'm back now.
Hey, Takashi, where's your wife and kid?
SHFF
They came with me, but it's too cold so they didn't wanna come along.
My husband, too.

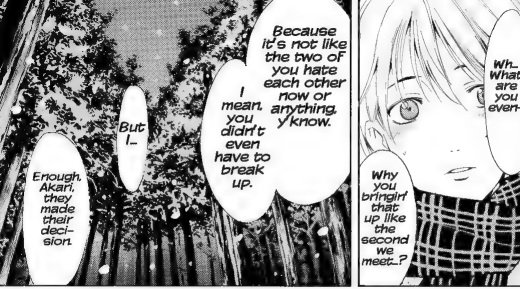
....

Man, it's really been a while since we did this kinda thing.
Yeah, man... And we used to come here together every year up until high school.

Why would I do that?
Of course, you're the reason we even met!
You can still change it, y'know!
Wh-You really gave him that name?!
Ah! That's right. Haruto look at my kid!
Seiga's gettin' real big!

Wh?
Hey, Haruto... Are you really all right with what happened with Yuzuki-chan...?

She must be waitin' for you.
You gotta go back and see her.


Enough, Akari, they made their decision.
But I...
I mean, you didn't even have to break up.
Because it's not like the two of you hate each other now or anything, y'know.
Why you bringin' that up like the second we meet...?
Wh... What are you even-

I don't even know what I'd say if I saw her now...
Like, quit your job and marry me, or somethin'?
Yeah!
I know for sure!
IF you asked her to, she'd totally quit her job for you!!

I know that...
...Wh-
That's why I broke it off with her...
If I hadn't done it, I'd have to destroy her dreams someday.

*about a dollar

Ah, works for me.
So IF I win, you have to propose to Yuzuki-chan.
Come on!
Fine, then, do it!
IF you don't wanna, all you gotta do is win!
....
murmur
murmur
murmur
Nah it's just the Kirishima kid, Haru-chan and the Kaga kid. Akari-chan don't sumo.
Man, they're a little old to be playin' sumo at their first shrine visit of the year. Still a bunch a' brats, huh.
What, they fightin'?
-Hmph.
Like I could lose against a girl!
I remember you sayin' the same thing 15 years ago.
tmp
tmp
tap
tap
Sh- Shut up!!
All right already, face to face, face to face.
Okay? No hard feelings, winner takes all, best one outta one.

...Hm.
This is dumb.
GRIP
All right, come at me! The legendary Female yoko-zuna, "Mount Kaga" is about to show you her moves!
I'm gonna use my special butsu-dari-gaeshi move...
"Haruto Fuji" to send you Flying!

Don't lose to a girl, or you won't be able to show your Face in town!
All right! Don't matter which way ya flip 'er, just do it!

I ain't ever seen you use that move once!
Well, I'll show it to you right now!

....
Get ready!

Go!!

GRAB

....
She's real serious.
Ngh.

Grawwr!!
DOOMF

Ahhh... Feels good, man.
Kan-nose hot spring really is the best.
Right, Haru-to?

-Hm?
Yeah.

S'matter, the cold freeze up your vocal chords?
No way, nothin' like that...
SPISH!
But yeah, so...

For givin' us an way to get through our fight.
Thanks, man...

-Hm?

Huh?
Hey, Haruto!
Don't be gettin' cocky, huh?!

I mean... Akari might think different about it...
I dun-no.
Ha ha.
What's wit-ie with you?

This just means your record's improved to 1 win, 1 loss, that's all!
The next time, I'm gonna win, you get it?!
Ain't gonna be a next time!
....
Anyhow, you just let me win anyway, didn't you?
Huh?
When you and I were locked up together, I didn't think I was gonna win.
I could see the yellow earth of Africa...
Are you sayin' I'm a gorilla?!
Yeah, I am.
Huh?!

Aw, but...
I went at you for real, all right?
....
It's just that you...
...you got a lot stronger, that's all...

SUNGREE
yuzu no hana
...why you did what you did...
And I think...
...she probably knows...

Anyhow, you won, didn't ya? So tell me what you wanna make me do, already!
No-thin' at all!

Wh?
What d'you mean?

Oh, right...
Ah...

Well...
How 'bout you just show me your kid, as soon as you can!
...Wh?!
THE KIND OF FRIEND-SHIP THAT MEANS THEY CAN GO AT EACH OTHER HEAD-ON, EVEN AS ADULTS !!
That's none of your bus-iness !!
We're doin' our best. four times a week, without you sayin' a thing !!
Aw, c'mon, quit bein' gross!!
You start-ed it, Haruto !!
All right, all right. let's settle this with a sumo match!
Not again !!
...TO BE CONTINUED!!

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK WITH ME?
#259 An Adult?
Kouji Seo
A town where you live
SUNSHINE COFFEE
SUNSHINE

The Story So Far
Haruto, now working at the Kochi branch office of a beverage manufacturer, had been in a long-distance relationship with Yuzuki, a teacher in Tokyo, but he decided to break it off when he realized the burden was too heavy, and because he respected her dreams. He threw himself into his work, and now he's been working for the company for nearly three years.
We are truly...
...very sorry about all this!!
The hack is up with this beer?
It's your product that's got our store in the red, after all.
Yeah, but... An apology's not gonna fix this, y'know...
...!
Um... Kirishima-sempai...
You told me it'd sell no problem, didn't you? Was that a scam?
We would never do such a thing! I promise you. I will submit a sales revival plan this week!!
That's enough, I get it.
Well, I guess I'll leave it to you!
Come on, you gotta apologize, too!
Our product has caused them so much trouble!!
Woah!!
5階

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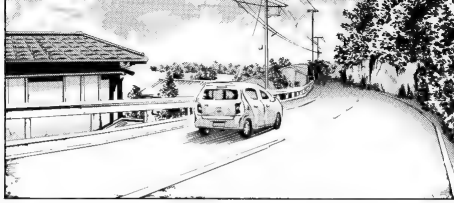


What do you mean?
How come we gotta apologize even IF we've done nothing wrong?
I just don't get it. I don't get it at all.
SUIGINE

You been here almost two years, haven't you? You need to get it through your head.
IF it's not sellin' well at that place, then as far as they're concerned, it's a bad product.

Whatever, just get your license already, jeez.
I won't!!
Because we didn't do anything wrong!!

Well, this is our most well-received product right now!
IF this bear isn't selling it's 'cause that old man's not putting enough effort into it!!
I mean, it's sellin' so well now that they already decided to release it nationwide, didn't they?

SUNGREE

It's 'cause of you, idiot.
You're gettin' old, sir.
Maan... I'm kinda beat now.
SHFF
SUNGREE

We were gonna go out drinking together.
Huh.
Did Adachi-san leave already?

It seems like someone high-ranking has come from Tokyo to talk about it.
Oh, the branch manager called her out, and I think it's about, you know... The matter of "Yuzu Flowers" going nationwide.

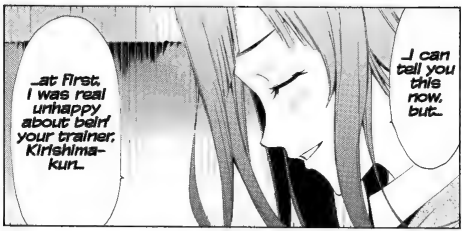
Oh, welcome back.
That took you a while.
This kid causes trouble everywhere we go.

Boy you still just don't get it, do you...?
....
I see.
I guess they're starting that next month, huh.
Man, Adachi-san is pretty amazing, isn't she...?
Wh...What do you mean?
I mean, that was your plan to start with, Kiri-shima-kun! Aren't you mad at all that Misaki-chan came in and stole it out from under you?
Plus, Adachi-san's leadership played a big part in the project's success.
...
But, well...if it sells, it's all good with me, really.
Well, I was a little mad at first, of course.
"Creak.
SLIDEEE
IF that's how you feel, then I guess it's all right.
tap
tap
...I see.

I'm baaack!!
C'mon, Kirishima-kun, let's go out drinkin'!!
Ah... Good work out there.
Every-thing okay with the bigwig from the home office?
It's all great, no problem what-so-ever!
Those Tokyo head-quarters guys are nothin' to worry about!
Chatter
Chatter
All right then, let's get a move on.
Where you takin' me to, hmm?
Ah... Well how about we go to that new place near the train station, hm?
Yama-saki-san, are those two datin'?
I mean, they go out drinkin' together every day...
That's just free over-time work.

Ah ha ha ha !!
For real! No way !!
That's cos I think it every time, since our beer's so great!
You got that right.
....
TUNK
Ahh !!
Yeah, nothin' better than a beer after work!!
You say that every time.

Man, time sure flies... I can't believe it's been almost three years since you started here.
Huh?
Oh... Yeah, what's the big deal?


...I can tell you this now, but...
...at first, I was real unhappy about bein' your trainer, Kirishima-kun...

...Uh huh.
'Cause no matter what I said to try to stop you, you'd get up in the store-keepers' faces...
...and you neglected your own big proposal to go see your girlfriend and all. I was thinkin' "Is this kid stupid?!"

Sorry about all that...
Umm...
Well...

You have! You really have.
Wh...
I don't feel like I've grown up at all though...

Aw, well...
But I guess the harder it is to raise 'em, the better it feels when they come out all right, like with a kid.

He is, huh?
Well... to be honest...
I mean, he's a pain, isn't he?
I'm hopin' Ibs like that with Shimada. For ya.

Or maybe he just can't get a good objective look at things.
...he can't seem to see himself from the outside.
He's not a bad guy or anything, it's just...

I mean, no matter how many times I tried to stop him he was gettin' in this shop-keeper's face.
And if I stop watching him for a minute, he calls up his girlfriend...
I'm getting to the point where I'm thinking, what is he just an idio...

....
Ah... Wait...

See...
You have grown up, look at that.
....

...You know,
you've really started to look mature...

I think you'll be okay even without me hangin' around.
...huh?

Come on, quit talking like that, please.
It really sounds like you're getting ready to go somewhere, Adachi-san...

Ah ha ha ha!
I'm not goin' nowhere!
...Well, that's good, then.

Kiri-shima-kun, you...
...are now an adult.

I'm still just a green-horn...
I want to learn as much as I can from you, Adachi-san.
...Oh hoh.
That's the most ador-able thing you've ever said.
C'mon, how 'bout to-night...
I teach you all about what turns me on, hmm?
!!
Ah ha ha ha!!
You still haven't grown at all in that respect, though!!
Sh-Shut up!!
Wh-

IN THE ISSUE THAT COMES OUT ON WED. 2/12, A MIRACLE OCCURS !!

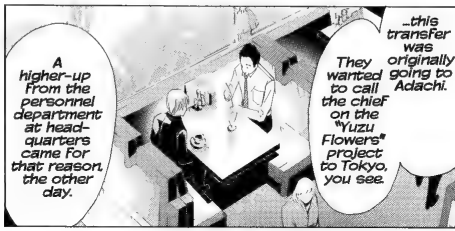
YOU'LL LOSE OUT IF YOU MISS IT!!

You're being transferred to the Tokyo head-quarters next month.
Do you think you can get ready in time?

...Wh-

Wh!!
Anyhow let's talk outside. We can't talk with these guys here.
O-o-kay.
No way!!
TMP TMP
Why?
Woahh!! No way, sir!! What a promotion!!

To be perfectly honest, I shouldn't be telling you this, but...
...Well now...


A higher-up from the personnel department at head-quarters came for that reason, the other day.
They wanted to call the chief on the "Yuzu Flowers" project to Tokyo, you see.
...this transfer was originally going to Adachi.

....
...So then
Why am I the one who...
Be-cause Adachi turned it down.
She said she wasn't the one who came up with the plan.
She said the real amazing one was you, so we should send you to Tokyo.

I'm kind of uncomfortable with it, to tell you the truth...
But because of how much she talked you up, the home office conceded.
And I suppose you were the one to offer up the original plan, that much is true.

....

But in order to repay the debt to her, you have to make sure to work much-
HUFMP

You're talkin' too much about it...
...don't ya think, boss?

Um...
Ada-chi-san...
I...
A-Adachi! You were here?!
Is that the kinda face a man should be makin'?
You waste of space!!
Ow!!
I-I don't think I really measure up to you, Adachi-san...
I mean, I'll only have been here three years next month.
I mean, you're the one they thought so highly of, so I-
I mean, me going is just gonna be...
B-But I'm so sorry... This is just so...
Don't worry about it.
I hate Tokyo, y'know! If I'm goin' anywhere, I'm goin' to Osaka.
But I-
Quit com-plainin', will ya!!
...!

What-ever. Just go to Tokyo and take that city by storm!
This is my last order to you!
....
WITH A HEFTY PUSH, HARUTO IS HEADING BACK TO TOKYO!!
Yes, ma'am.
I'll do my very best.
I can't hear you!! Man, are you really gonna be okay?
Yes, ma'am!!
I'll do my very best!!
TO BE CONTINUED!!

LAST TWO CHAPTERS!!
A town where you live
WHOOSH
The Story so far
Haruto, who was working at the Kochi branch office of a beverage manufacturer, had been in a long-distance relationship with Yuzuki, a teacher in Tokyo. He decided to break it off because he didn't want to overburden her, and because he respected her dreams. In the meantime his hard work was recognized and he received a promotion and transfer to the headquarters in Tokyo!
His third year as a company man, and Haruto is back in Tokyo for the first time in two years!!
TMP
TMP
TMP

When he looks at the sakura blossoms...
...there's one person he always thinks of.
Kouji Seo
A town where you live
#260 Sakura Petals
A MIRACLE OCCURS IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE! IT'S A MUST-READ!!

Back in Tokyo...

...I'm back, then.

Every year, when it gets to be spring...

We'll come back here and look at the cherry blossoms.

TAP

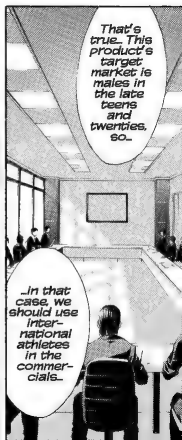
TAP

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

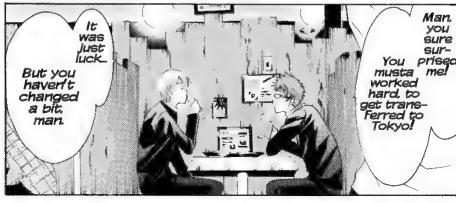
SUNCREE

PRODUCT PLANNING DEPT

I really think we need to be selling it in a way that will create a stronger impression!
That's been done over and over!


That's true. This product's target market is males in the late teens and twenties, so...
...In that case, we should use international athletes in the commercials.

Aw, loosen up a little, Kirishima.
You're gonna give yourself a heart attack, y'know?
I'm just fine!!
I'm trying to tell you that it's not going to-
Man, guys who've been here about three years always need things to stand out...
We can do it the regular way, and it'll be just fine.


Man, you sure surprised me! You musta worked hard to get transferred to Tokyo!
It was just luck. But you haven't changed a bit, man.

Aw, heck yes I have. I changed a ton!
Phew, with an idiot dad like you, I feel bad for your kids.
Anyhow, you need to get it over with and have a wedding ceremony! Your wife's gonna be mad...
You know I'm a father of two, now, don't ya!
Kiyomi is gonna get a job this year-
...I plan to do it once we get a little money saved.
Anyhow, what about you, Haruto? How's that transfer to H.Q. treating you?

There really ain't much to say about it...
I thought they'd make a fuss for a newbie full of promise who came up with a new beer...
...but just 'cause I'm young, they make fun of all my suggestions and won't listen to a word I say.

Yeah... Seems like the old guard's the same no matter where you go.
You just gotta show 'em results so they give you a chance.
Ha ha!
Man, if I've gotten to the point where you're lecturing me, it's pretty much all over.

Well anyhow, you got a girl-friend yet?
Huh?
....
Y-Yeah right.
No time for that now. It's all about work.
....

Ah.
Whatever, liar. You looked away when you said it.
Don't tell me.

HI KLATTER
You're still hung up on Yuzuki-chan, aren't you?
You sure talk big for somebody who's got such a romantic heart.
Th... That ain't it at all...!

Look, I know you didn't break up cause you didn't like her...
...but it's been a year and a half since then!
And you're the one who broke up with her this time!
There's no way she ain't got a boyfriend already, y'know.
....
Do you... still hang out with her...? Even now...

Nah... Not since you two broke up, I ain't seen her at all.
I think Akari and Kanzaki see her sometimes, though.
...I see.

You gotta get her outta your head already and find a new girl.
How 'bout I I intro-duce you to a nice girl, huh?
Man, if you're gonna intro-duce me to a girl, It really is all over for me this time.

Ha ha!
Yeah, you got that right.

....
¥100

...Act-ually.

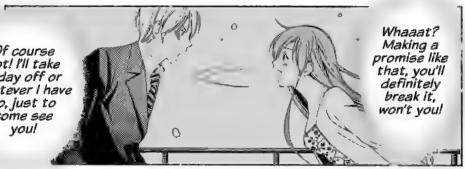
I think you really have...
...changed.
Hm?
You think so?

...I do...
...seem to be stuck on her pretty hard, don't I?

I guess I have to bring myself to...
...realize it's really over.

シャッ
SHFF
シャッ
SHFF

TMP
TMP


Whaaat? Making a promise like that, you'll definitely break it, won't you!
Of course not! I'll take a day off or whatever I have to, just to come see you!

TMP
TMP

Okay... Then I'll be waiting.
When spring comes, I'll look forward to seeing the cherry blossoms here with you.

TMP
TMP

Fshhhhhh

All right, all right, I get it.
....

I never tire of looking at you...
...no matter how much I do it... is what it means.
There's not any reason for me to come here anymore.
Looks like all the petals will fall this week.

The haze of spring... over mountain cherry blossoms.

I am never sated of the sight.

Nor am I of you... huh.

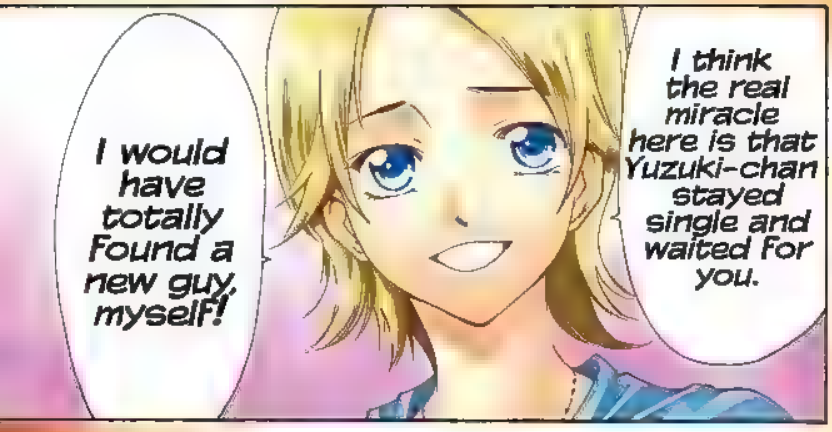
....
Yu-zu-
You're late_
_Wh-
...break up...
Lets...

We finally-
-got to see the cherry blossoms together.
Fsshhh

...I'm sorry.
I—

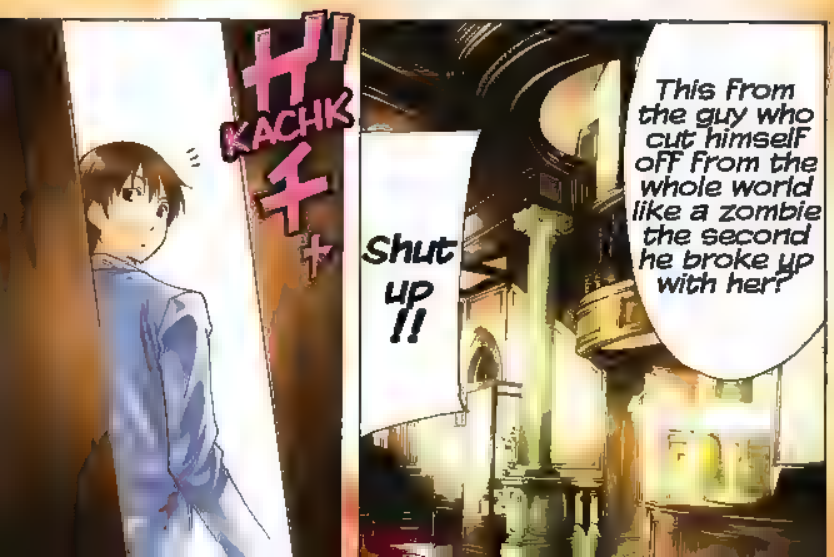
I'm sor-ry...
YOU WAITED !! YOU BELIEVED !!
THE BONDS BETWEEN THEM CAN NEVER, EVER BE BROKEN !!
Wel-come home...
Ha-ru-to-kun
THE NEXT CHAPTER, THE LAST CHAPTER, WILL HAVE YOUR FEELINGS IN A WHIRL !!
...TO BE CONTINUED!!!

A town where you live


I would have totally found a new guy myself!
I think the real miracle here is that Yuzuki-chan stayed single and waited for you.

Maaan, though, who knew the minute you come back to Tokyo, things go back to the way they were and then you're gettin' married!
You're a pretty take-no-prisoners guy, aren't ya?
Aw, c'mon! It ain't that weird, is it?
We didn't break up 'cause I didn't like her anymore, y'know!

Huuh!?
I believed in it.
Well... It was the power of love.


H' KACHK
Shut up!!
This from the guy who cut himself off from the whole world like a zombie the second he broke up with her?

A town where you live

Thank you For reading the Five-and-a-half-year story of "A Town Where You Live"! We hope you enjoy this last chapter. Filled with joy and happiness!

We've bloomed in the color of happiness.

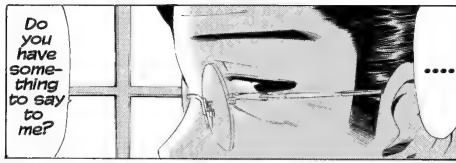
#261 When the Cherry Blossoms Bloom

Kouji Seo

The story so far

Haruto and Yuzuki have finally reunited in Tokyo. They've gone through hills and valleys together and so much has happened, but now they're finally getting married!

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.


Do you have something to say to me?
....

I've caused you so much trouble over the years, and I just want to apologize.
Um...
I would like to speak with you properly today, Father...

Wh... Well, I mean... Uh... We started living together and all... And then...
Have you done something that you need to apologize to me for?
Haruto-kun.

You are grown adults, now.
You can do as you like.
B-But, I mean...
...that's not really the point of...
It's all right, Haruto-kun.
I think I finally understand what my father was thinking.
Huh?
My family...
...went through a lot.
Hm?
It was pretty hard, wasn't it?
To raise me...

....
You're more interested in work than you are in me, anyway!
If you don't like it, we don't have to live together at all!!
....
Rin, stop that!!
Get out of here!! I don't wanna live with someone like you!
No_
_it wasn't that difficult.
You've been neglecting me ever since mom died!!
You're always too busy, too busy for me!

This... Couldn't do here.
...Just leave everything else to me. You rest now...
plp
plp
Father.
...Thank you.
She'll understand, I'm sure...
She's really smart, you know.
...I

You worked so hard to raise me right...
Thank you so much...
I promise you, I'll...
....I'll raise Yuzuki to be great. Watch me...
....
Hey... Are you watching us now?
plp
plp

Our precious daughter...
...has grown into such a wonderful woman...

creak

Ah... right.
Hey, Dad! Come on, tell Haruto-san what you said!

...and this family has given you a fair share of trouble, too...
Ah... well.
I am somewhat grateful to you...

....
Yeah...

....

But... That's nothing to be concerned about now.
I think we've finally become a real family.
Jeez. Do you have to make that face again?

Well... now it's our turn!
Let's make our own happy family, hm?

....
Yeah...

You perve!
Oh... But I was
N-No!!
Shut up!
What's all this? You guys already talkin' about makin' a baby this soon after the ceremony?

Come quick everyone!
Hey! It's picture time!

It's all good! I'm looking forward to Mizumoto-sempai and Shiho-san's cooking too!
You know~
I'm starvin' here!!
Aaaaall right! Let's get it over with and head to the reception!

Whatever! Just get together, all of you, sheesh!!
Oh! Then let me, Chisa, go right up here in front, right?
Quit bringing up crap like that at the wedding, already!!
Come on, Yura-kun!
All right! All the girls Haruto's liked up 'til now get in front, okay!

Fwooosh

なりぎす

Huh. What did?
Maaan. He gave me a big scare back then, though.

TMP
TMP
TMP

Ahaha, yeah! That's true.
Haruto's dad was real ticked off too, wasn't he...
Well, like. Y'know, when Haruto was all sayin' he was gonna quit his job, everyone stopped short.

But it's not like it was a huge surprise.
I think he'd been thinking about it for a long time.
But, I mean, he came up with a bunch of hit drinks and they told him he was gonna be an executive pretty soon, and all...
He's just a real moron, I think.
Well, yeah. Not really a big surprise from him.
Yeah, guess so.
tmp
tmp
Woah there!
BOMP
Oh, hey Daiki! You're gettin' big!
Is your dad around?
Ah!
Uncle Takashi, Auntie Akari!
Yep! He's inside getting stuff ready!!

桐島食堂
KIRISHIMA
KI RI SHI MA

Ah... Takashi-kun, Akari-chan!

He's really opening it up...
Yeah.
Kiri-shima res-tau-rant.

You guys're late!
Every-body else is already inside, y'know?

C'mon, get in there.
桐島食堂
KIRISHIMA RESTAURANT

Yeah! Just on my days off from school.
Big talk from you, man!

Hey, been a while, man! We came for a taste test before you open!
Yuzuki-chan, you're helping at the shop too?

It tastes perfect! I studied at Amagi Japanese Foods for a year, y'know!
And if you want booze, I got all the hit drinks I put out in stock!
What, you brag-girl?
May-be!

Ah
BAM
tmp
tmp

Ah!
Sorry about that!

H-Hey, come on, you!
You like that at school, too?
Huh, Mrs. Yuzuki?
KIRIS
Yes, ma'am! Sorry ma'am!
FWOOP
IF you keep running in narrow places like this, it'll just keep happening!

Heyyy! Pops!! I'm starvin'!

CLOSED
本日貸切
FOR A PRIVATE EVENT

Yeah, yeah. I'll make you somethin' in a minute.

Daiki! Don't you mean, "Dad. I'm hungry." hmm?

Either way's fine with me.

Ah! You two are so late!

The game has already started.

Oh, it has?! Lemme see. lemme see!!

She was always real good at it, y'know.
It's so amazing that Asuka-chan is a star in the All-Japan women's softball team!
Japan

Hm? Where are you going, Haruo-kun? Let's watch the game with everyone.
Chatter
Chatter
TAP

Hm?
Sure. Just...

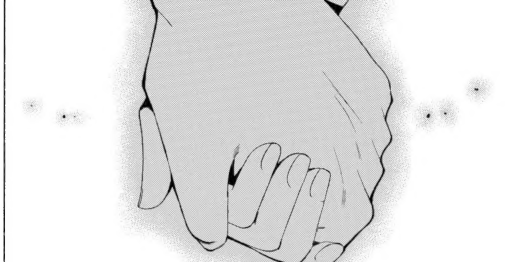
There.
Now we're really all gonna watch the game together.
PaFF
Kohina Kohonen

Hm? Your wife's not along today?
Yeah, she went to cheer at the game in person and took the kids along.

Kirishima Restaurant
...Ah.
Haruto-kun...
....
Asuka's tryin' real hard, y'know?
You better be cheerin' too, Kazama.

The seasons have changed over and over...
And as they have, bit by bit, everything else continued to change as well.
Some times were hard...
Some times were Fun...
And bit by bit...
...they all turned into memories.

...I keep thinking that I'm gonna keep making new memories.
Hey! Pops, I'm starvin'!
That's all you ever say to me, isn't it? Just like your mom, back in the day.
Hey! Don't tell him weird stuff like that!!
And maybe... there are are more hard times ahead...
...but all I can do is just keep livin' this life...
Aw, c'mon, he's fawnin' over you.
Even all these years later you get along real well.
...with my idiotic but awesome friends...
...my beloved family...
Yeah, that's right.
You get along real well!
Ah.
...and of course, above all else...



Thank you so much For reading!!
...you, the person I love most of all in this world.
...in the town where you live.